



Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2014
at Metro Social Services
800 2nd Avenue North, Suite 100

Present: Diane Kuhn, Renee Pratt, Megan Barry, Steven Samra, Kirby Davis
Staff: Will Connelly, Deon Trotter, Karri Simpson

The meeting began at 1:01 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 20, 2014 meeting were approved. Megan Barry made the motion; Steven Samra seconded. All approved.

Financial Report and Budget

Pam McEwen reported that we're on target for closing out the finances at a zero balance, expect for an anticipated \$74,000.00 in salaries/wages due to vacant positions, at the end of this fiscal year. The Room in the Inn Guest House and Day Center has expended their contract; Centerstone and Park Center are on track through April but have yet to submit their financial reports for May. Out of the budget, 145 more NES vouchers were purchased.

Pam McEwen reported that the How's Nashville campaign raised around \$90,000.00 and spent approximately \$70,000.00; the campaign will likely close out the year with \$20,000.00. Expenditures in May were down from \$13,000.00 to \$1,300.00. Will Connelly addressed that bedding was purchased in the previous month leading to the higher spending.

Megan Barry inquired whether or not the Gail Kerr funding was reflected in the current financial summary. This funding source has not yet been received and therefor was not reflected.

Currently CBGB funds are being spent averaging \$5,450.00/month on applicable costs. Will Connelly reported that he and Karri Simpson are reviewing the current contract with MDHA to find alternative ways to spend this money. An initial meeting was held with Suzie at MDHA and they are open to amending the contract to add additional expenses.

Staff Update

Will Connelly introduced Karri Simpson, who joined the team at the Homelessness Commission yesterday. All commissioners welcomed her.

Project Homeless Connect

No organization or individual has bid on the Project Homeless Connect RFP. A gentleman from Vanderbilt Nursing planned to partner with several local organizations, submitting the RFP on all's behalf, but upon learning at the orientation the detailed software required to complete the application decided against it. While the Purchasing Department with Metro Social Services offered to input the data for them, they still declined. Discussion ensued around if the budget was enough for organizations to take this on themselves. All agreed that staff at Homelessness Commission did not have the capacity to put on the event, but that they would sponsor it while other community organizations organized and staffed it. The Nashville Coalition for the Homeless is currently in the planning stage for two similar small events.

This discussion lead to a conversation regarding the Key Alliance and the meters, and that something must be done with them. Both Renee Pratt and Diane Kuhn stated they spoke with Howard Gentry who had asked for a report on how much was collected from the meters. Metro Public Works is supposed to collect the money from the meters and have it deposited. Currently no collection has been done in a year. Diane Kuhn asked Will to have someone on his team accompany the Public Works department to collect the money and report back at the next meeting on the total. Based on this information, a conversation on whether to keep the meters, and rebrand them to How's Nashville, or remove them will occur.

How's Nashville

As of April 2014, the How's Nashville campaign has assisted 515 chronically homeless individuals with permanent supportive housing, with an average of 47/month. Looking back at those housed in June 2013, 75% have retained that housing. Diane Kuhn inquired as to whether or not there was data regarding what percentage continued to access supportive services. Will discussed that there are different levels of case management/supportive services and that he is currently working on gathering this information. In addition Megan Barry asked that information regarding how many moved from housing to incarceration for future meetings. All agreed that this information could be useful to identify gaps in services/needs of the community if individuals are continuing to use forms of services once housed. Centerstone has hired another case manager. Currently there is room for between 10-15 clients to receive case management, but once the new case manager begins there will be an additional 25 openings.

Megan Barry asked that the total number of individuals are that could be housed today if there was enough housing in the system. Deon Trotter informed the group that approximately 30-40 individuals have everything necessary to move-in today. A further discussion regarding landlords ensued. Currently many landlords are choosing not to take Section 8 vouchers because the inspection is difficult in addition to the fact that as the housing market continues to grow they don't need to take them to fill their vacancies. This is concern as well for those individuals currently using Section 8 vouchers with landlords who are not going to continue to use them after their one year is up. Steven Samra inquired as to whether unit location has impacted an individual's willingness to move-in. Deon responded that those on the list are willing to move-in pretty much anywhere and that the Section 8 housing vouchers are limited to Davidson County in their first year, further limiting the housing availability. Megan Barry wondered if this was a Federal or local law. No one knew but would look into it.

An MOU with Urban Housing Solutions (UHS) has been created and signed. No monies were exchanged but an MOU was created detailing the responsibilities of both parties. For any open unit within UHS, the vacancy will be filled through the coordinated entry system. Any individuals who go to UHS to apply will be referred to Metro Social Services so that a VISPDAT can be completed along with any additional paperwork as well as UHS will provide Metro with a list of individuals who came on site to apply so that follow-up can be done if they don't show up to the Metro office. Metro Social Services will also provide assistance in locating any ongoing case management they may need. How's Nashville is hoping to create similar partnerships and is meeting with Park Center later this week.

Coordinated Entry System (CES)

The Continuum of Care (CoC) has created a subcommittee to look at adding other functionality to the CES. CoC funded organizations will eventually be required to use a coordinated entry system as mandated by HUD. The first meeting of this subcommittee was held last week and Will Connelly and two vista workers for How's Nashville were present. Kirby Davis suggested that Julia Gildemeister with Rooftops be involved in this group.

There was no new information on the Unified Funding Agency (UFA) for HUD. The UFA would be the recipient of HUD CoC funding and then divide this money up into smaller grants for organizations in the community, providing the oversight as well. There is additional funding include to cover administration costs. The Homelessness Commission agreed they are still interested in this opportunity. No decisions were made.

Announcements

Megan Barry brought up a concern regarding liability for an individual moved in through the CES. Discussion around renters insurance ensued and all agreed that if CBGB funds could cover this cost then it should be used accordingly.

Megan Barry and Steven Samra both announced they will not be able to attend a meeting in July. All agreed that the meeting next month would be canceled.

Discussion ensued around the time of the next meeting in August. All agreed that meetings would be moved to 8:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of every month.

Diane Kuhn motion to adjourn; Megan Barry so moved and Steven Samra seconded. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, August 19 at 8:30 a.m. at Metro Social Services.